

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 2. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 2 replace the original sheets including Figs. 1 and 2. In Figs. 1 and 2, the legend "PRIOR ART" has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of the amendments above, claims 14-30 will be pending, wherein claims 24-30 have been added. Entry of the amendment to claims 24-30 is appropriate because as discussed below, the final rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's time and courtesy during the personal interview conducted with the undersigned on October 24, 2005. The following discussion summarizes some of the issue addressed during the personal interview. The second paragraph of the Office Action states that the attorney docket number on page 3, lines 18-19 should be deleted. However, Applicants respectfully submit that such an amendment was submitted in the Reply filed on May 8, 2005. Accordingly, it is believed that it is not necessary to make any further changes to the specification.

In the third paragraph of the Office Action, it is noted that Figs. 1 and 2 should be designated by a legend, such as "PRIOR ART." Applicants submit herewith an amendment to Figs. 1 and 2 to add such a legend.

In the fourth paragraph of the Office Action, claims 14 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,735,212 to Calamvokis ("Calamvokis") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,654,843 to Brandis et al. ("Brandis"). In the fifth paragraph of the Office Action, claims 15, 16 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combination of Calamvokis,

Brandis and U.S. Patent No. 6,704,312 to Chang et al. (“Chang”). These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

The rejection of Applicants’ claims 14-23 is improper because they all rely upon Brandis, which is not prior art with respect to the present application. Specifically, Brandis has a 102(e) date of March 19, 2001, while the present application claims priority to two United Kingdom applications filed on July 5, 2000 and October 10, 2000. Because the rejection of Applicants’ claims 14-23 all rely upon a patent which is not prior with respect to the present application, the rejection of these claims is improper and should be withdrawn.

New claims 24-30 are patentably distinguishable from Calamvokis because Calamvokis does not disclose or suggest the first and second ingress forwarders recited in Applicants’ claim 24. Specifically, as discussed during the personal interview, the switch of Calamvokis employs a centralized common scheduler 106 for controlling the input and output ports. In contrast, Applicants’ claimed invention provides a distributed scheduling, which is recited in claim 24 as the ingress timetable and scheduler included in the first and second ingress forwarders. As discussed during the personal interview, by providing the distributed scheduling, the present invention does not require stringent delay performance for the communication between the ingress forwarders and the management card, as would be required by a centralized scheduler such as that of Calamvokis.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038819.50061US).

Respectfully submitted,



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